

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Award to E5 Solutions, Inc. for RFP E1-2009/AT and enter into contract negotiations

REQUESTED ACTION: Board's Option

☐ Work Session (Report Only) **DATE OF MEETING:** 10/13/2009
☒ Regular Meeting ☐ Special Meeting

CONTRACT: ☐ N/A Vendor/Entity: _____
Effective Date: _____ Termination Date: _____
Managing Division / Dept: _____

BUDGET IMPACT: TBD based on negotiated contract services and terms
☒ Annual **FUNDING SOURCE:** General Fund
☐ Capital **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** _____
☐ N/A



HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

The following information was compiled as an assessment of information regarding the top 2 proposers for this work.

E5 Solutions, Inc. and Rick Dodge as its President was researched and the attached information is provided. After review of the documentation and a follow-up phone call with Rick Dodge, I conclude there is nothing I found that was not explained through the documentation or the phone call that would raise an objection on my part should the BOCC choose this firm as recommended by the selection committee.

Sumter County Economic Development Council and Mary Jane Stanley as its proposed Executive Director was researched and the attached information is provided. After the review of the documentation and a follow-up conversation with James Wade as its President, I conclude there is nothing I found that was not explained through the documentation or the meeting I had that would raise an objection on my part should the BOCC choose this firm contrary to the selection committee recommendation or failure to successfully conclude contract negotiations with E5 Solutions, Inc.

Please note the attached document from the Sumter County Industrial Development Authority which demonstrates the lag in receipt of funds from them due to the agreed upon transfer at the time the CDs mature to avoid the loss of interest and payment of penalties.

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Florida Profit Corporation

E5 SOLUTIONS, INC.

Filing Information

Document Number	P09000075377
FEI/EIN Number	NONE
Date Filed	09/09/2009
State	FL
Status	ACTIVE

Principal Address

3984 GROVE PARK DRIVE
TALLAHASSEE FL 32311

Mailing Address

3984 GROVE PARK DRIVE
TALLAHASSEE FL 32311

Registered Agent Name & Address

JOSEPH, JOHN P ESQUIRE
2429 CENTRAL AVENUE
SUITE 201
ST PETERSBURG FL 33713 US

Officer/Director Detail

Name & Address
NONE

Annual Reports

No Annual Reports Filed

Document Images

09/09/2009 -- [Domestic Profit](#) [View image in PDF format](#)

Note: This is not official record. See documents if question or conflict.

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FLORIDA PROFIT/NON PROFIT CORPORATION

e5 solutions, inc.

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**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
E5 SOLUTIONS, INC.,**

SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

In compliance with the requirements of F.S. Chapter 607, the undersigned hereby acts as an incorporator in adopting and filing the following articles of incorporation for the purpose of organizing a business corporation.

ARTICLE I-Name

The name of the Corporation shall be: E5 Solutions, Inc.,

ARTICLE II- Purpose

The purpose for which the corporation is organized is to engage in any activities or business permitted under the laws of the United States and the State of Florida.

ARTICLE III- Term of Existence

This corporation shall begin existence on the date of filing these articles with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida and shall have perpetual existence thereafter.

ARTICLE IV- Powers

This corporation shall have all powers conferred by the laws of the state of Florida on corporations.

ARTICLE V- Capital Stock

This corporation is authorized to issue one thousand (1,000) shares of common voting stock. All or any part of the capital stock may be paid in cash, in property, or in labor or services actually performed for the corporation. Common Shares shall be identical with each other in every respect and the holders of Common Shares shall be entitled to one vote for each share on all matters on which shareholders have the right to vote. All stock shall be fully paid for when issued and shall be nonassessable.

ARTICLE VI

Principal Office Street Address

The street address of the Corporation's initial principal office is:

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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

3984 Grove Park Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32311.

ARTICLE VII Initial Registered Office and Agent

The initial registered agent's name and address for the Corporation's is:

John P. Joseph, Esquire
2429 Central Avenue
Suite 201
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

ARTICLE VIII- Indemnification

The corporation shall indemnify any present or former officer, director, or person exercising powers and duties of a director, to the full extent now or hereafter permitted by law.

ARTICLE IX- Transactions With Corporations

No contract or other transaction between this corporation and any other corporation, and no other contract or transaction of this corporation, shall in any way be affected or invalidated by the fact that any director or officer of this corporation has a pecuniary or other interest in any other corporation, or is a director or officer of any other corporation. Any director or officer individually, or any firm of which any director or officer may be a member, may be a party to or may be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in any contract or transaction of this corporation, provided that the fact that he or she or such firm is so interested shall be disclosed or shall have been known to the board of directors.

ARTICLE X-Amendment

This corporation reserves the right to amend, alter, change or repeal any provision contained in the Articles of Incorporation, or any amendments hereto, and to enact By-Laws, in manner now or hereafter prescribed by law and all rights conferred on Directors and Officers herein are granted subject to this reservation.

ARTICLE XI-Incorporator

The name and address of the incorporator of this corporation is:

John P. Joseph, Esquire
2429 Central Avenue
Suite 201
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

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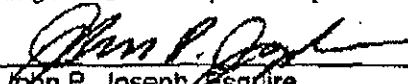
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned incorporator has executed these articles of incorporation.


John P. Joseph
Incorporator

Sept 2, 09
Date

ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTERED AGENT

Having been named to accept service of process for E5 Solutions, Inc., at the place designated in the articles of incorporation, the undersigned is familiar with and accepts the obligations of that position pursuant to F.S. 607.0501.


John P. Joseph, Esquire
Registered Agent

Sept 2, 09
Date

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TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

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Spratt resigns, saying it's best

He's the second to lose his job over the Smith land deal.

By WILL VAN SANT, JONATHAN ABEL and THERESA BLACKWELL

Published September 12, 2007

Steve Spratt spent the last few days talking privately with his bosses on the Pinellas County Commission about his future.

The message most commissioners had for him was clear: Your support is weakening. This can't continue.

So at the end of a public workshop Tuesday, the county administrator offered his resignation and the commission voted unanimously to accept it.

Some commissioners were visibly emotional, their eyes wet with tears, as Spratt shook hands and hugged each one after the vote. But some also expressed hope they could now put behind them the fiasco surrounding Property Appraiser Jim Smith's land deal.

A week ago, fallout from a critical grand jury report on the deal led the commission to fire their county attorney of two decades, Susan Churuti. By comparison, Spratt was a newcomer, having joined the county as administrator at the end of 2001.

With Spratt's resignation effective Sept. 30, the end of the county's budget year, Pinellas will soon be without permanent leadership in two top posts.

"This resignation is submitted with no negativity or ill feeling as I am proud of the accomplishments we have achieved together," Spratt read from a prepared statement before the vote. "I sincerely believe this course of action is in the best interest of moving the county government forward."

The resignation eliminates the need for the formal reprimand the commission planned against Spratt. And although final terms of the separation won't be settled until the commission next meets on Tuesday, the 52-year-old Spratt will be eligible for a year of severance pay. He is paid \$223,476 annually.

The current upheaval in Pinellas government stems from the County Commission's unanimous vote June 5 to buy vacant land on Brooker Creek from Smith. He was paid \$225,000, nearly four times the value Smith's office assigned the lot for tax purposes.

The grand jury's report on the deal, issued Aug. 28, faulted all of the players involved for creating the "clear public perception" that Smith got favorable treatment. Spratt pushed his staff to give the Smith deal priority and urged them to complete the transaction as quickly as possible at a time when Smith was seeking money for a down payment on a home. The grand jury report faulted his administration for short-circuiting normal procedures and for a questionable appraisal of the Smith property.

The report also criticized Spratt for not telling the full commission before they voted that Smith initially threatened a lawsuit against the county for allegedly damaging his land while doing flood control work after the 2004 hurricanes.

Spratt apologized to the public and the commission for his missteps and maintained he moved quickly because Churuti convinced him the best way to settle Smith's claim was through a purchase. A little more than a week ago, Spratt narrowly missed being fired at the same commission meeting where Churuti was booted.

Two commissioners moved to fire Spratt, and several others sharply criticized his actions.

Commissioners who spoke to Spratt on Friday said he was weighing a resignation but wanted to think about it over the weekend and talk with his wife, Lora.

On Tuesday, several commissioners praised him for sacrificing himself for the good of Pinellas County.

"Ever since Steve has been here, he put the organization first and he did that in this instance," County Commissioner Calvin Harris said after the vote. "He said, 'If I'm the lightning rod, I'll just remove myself from the equation.'"

After Tuesday's meeting, Spratt said dealing with the controversy over the Smith deal was the toughest challenge of his life, and he did not know what was next for him.

"I don't have any particular path or other avenues at this point," he said. "I really will just have to get to that when I get clear of important county business."

Spratt came to Pinellas after 25 years with Miami-Dade County, the last four of those years as assistant county manager. He took over from acting administrator Gay Lancaster, who held the post for over a year after Fred Marquis stepped down. Marquis served as administrator for 22 years.

Spratt was brought in as a change agent. He overhauled department structures, focused resources on underserved unincorporated areas of Pinellas and promoted a more activist, higher profile role for county government. A keen fiscal manager, he pushed for efficiency. Though critics of bloated government condemned him for it, Spratt amassed an unprecedented reserve account that the county could tap in emergencies.

What he lacked, according to interviews with several commissioners, was political savvy.

His plans for bringing a restaurant to Fort De Soto and building ballfields in Brooker Creek Preserve led to public backlashes that Spratt seemed unable to navigate.

"This Smith thing was just the icing on the cake," County Commissioner Susan Latvala said after the vote. "He's a good man, a good administrator, but we were just stumbling too much."

A workshop will be scheduled before the end of the month so the commission can discuss how to replace both Spratt and Churuti.

During the meeting, County Commissioner Bob Stewart said he had the highest regard for Spratt. Stewart questioned whether it was right for him and his colleagues on the commission to remain in office while putting the ax to others.

"I'm not sure that's fair the way this works," Stewart said. "Why should everybody else pay a higher cost than we do?"

Stewart also zeroed in on Smith, who he said appears to be above the fray. Stewart said Smith will have to answer to the voters if he seeks re-election next year and perhaps to the governor, who could remove him from office.

Neither Smith nor a spokesperson for Gov. Charlie Crist returned phone calls Tuesday.

Fast facts

Key dates in the Smith deal

June 5: Pinellas County commissioners unanimously vote to buy Jim Smith's land for \$225,000, nearly four times what Smith's office assessed it for taxes.

July 4: The St. Petersburg Times reports the sale.

Aug. 1: The grand jury convenes to determine if any laws were broken during the transaction between Smith and the county.

Aug. 28: Grand jury issues its report. It does not call for any indictments but is critical of Smith, County Attorney Susan Churuti, and the manner in which the transaction was handled by the county.

Sept. 4: Churuti is fired by commissioners.

Sept. 11: Steve Spratt offers his resignation, which is accepted by commissioners.

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Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Former Pinellas County official wins \$350,000 settlement

Tampa Bay Business Journal

Documents released Wednesday show Pinellas County agreed to pay \$350,000 to Rick Dodge, a former assistant administrator, to settle his whistleblower lawsuit.

Dodge filed suit against the county in February 2003, alleging the county fired him in 2002 in retaliation for his probe into allegations of mismanagement by work force contractor Lockheed Martin IMS.

He was the county's economic development manager and oversaw a \$15 million contract with Lockheed to provide work force development programs.

Dodge initially sought \$1.6 million in his lawsuit.

Under the settlement, Dodge receives back pay of about \$155,000 and reinstatement as a county employee as of

Aug. 12, 2002 through October 2003. The county also agreed to pay for Dodge's retirement contribution, plus interest, for that period.

About half the settlement are Dodge's attorney's fees, according to county documents.

Neither the county nor Dodge admits any liability or wrongdoing in the settlement agreement.

Under the agreement, Dodge releases the county from any possible **false light claim stemming from negative news stories he contended were planted by his boss**, County Administrator Steve Spratt.

The county has paid about \$582,000 in attorney's fees since the lawsuit was filed.

The county's attorneys estimated it would cost another \$350,000 to proceed through trial in the case, excluding any appeal.

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Tampa Bay Business Journal - February 20, 2006
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TAMPA BAY Business Journal

Friday, February 17, 2006

Whistle blown

Whistleblower's lawyer alleges Times duped into discrediting official

Tampa Bay Business Journal - by [Jane Meinhardt](#) and [Michael Hinman](#) Staff writers

Pinellas County's decision to settle Rick Dodge's whistleblower lawsuit comes just four months after he threatened another suit accusing his former boss of planting a false newspaper story, one that Dodge says "devastated" his reputation.

Days after the **St. Petersburg Times** story and a related editorial were published in July 2002, County Administrator Steve Spratt -- then Dodge's boss -- demoted and then fired him.

The high points of Dodge's public service include helping to pave the way for Major League Baseball to award a Tampa Bay franchise and garnering millions in grant funding for creation of the now renown Salvador Dali Museum. His entire professional career was spent in public service and business development.

But his final moments at the county were spent being escorted by two county attorneys to retrieve his photographs, awards and other personal items from his office. Yellow crime scene tape was draped across his office door.

Reasons for firing differ

Dodge's proposal to arrange for St. Petersburg-based **Echelon Development** to get \$2.5 million in public funds for some infrastructure at **Carillon Town Center** to keep the commercial project alive -- the subject of the Times story and editorial -- was presented publicly as the reason he was fired.

The July 2002 Times story, which included quotes from County Administrator Steve Spratt, implies that Dodge was a renegade, making promises he was not authorized to keep. An editorial three days later suggested, "It is difficult to see how Spratt or county commissioners could continue to trust Dodge to represent Pinellas County."

Much more was behind his firing, Dodge contends in his 2003 whistleblower lawsuit.

The suit alleges Spratt fired Dodge because he kept pursuing an in-depth investigation into allegations of mismanagement by the former **Lockheed Martin** IMS, which had a \$15 million federally funded contract to provide work force development for the county.

A preliminary audit Dodge ordered in late 2000 alleged only two of 50 businesses the contractor supposedly used for job placements verified hiring welfare-to-work clients, raising suspicions Lockheed was paid for services not provided.

Topless clubs were on the employers list Lockheed provided. Lockheed denied any wrongdoing.

"I've never known a job that is an improper job," a Lockheed Martin IMS VP said in a 2001 Business Journal story. "I'd love to get everyone a job at \$25 an hour, but that's impossible."

County officials refused Dodge's request to commission a forensic audit that would have verified with clients that they had received Lockheed Martin services for which the contractor was paid.

But the U.S. Department of Labor does see a reason for investigation.

It is now questioning the contractor's performance, and a Tampa federal grand jury has subpoenaed records from the county.

Charge: media manipulated

After alleging for years that the whistleblower suit was baseless and rebuffing earlier attempts to settle, Pinellas commissioners -- without public discussion -- authorized the county's attorneys on Jan. 24 to negotiate a settlement with Dodge.

One thing commissioners did not discuss in public was an Oct. 3 letter from Gregory Kehoe, Dodge's attorney, to Spratt that alleges there was indeed more going on behind the scene.

Kehoe informed Spratt that Dodge intended to file a false light lawsuit against the county.

"The false light claim arises from your actions in July and August 2002 wherein you maliciously acted to discredit Mr. Dodge by planting a story with [a St. Petersburg Times reporter] ... accusing Mr. Dodge of breaching the public trust by committing county funds to a multi-million dollar project without the approval of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners," the letter states. "You knew this story was not accurate having already determined that Echelon officials understood that any discussions with Mr. Dodge and other high ranking county officials in 1999 were tentative and subject to board approval."

Kehoe wrote that the Times' story "devastated" Dodge's credibility and reputation. The potential for a false light claim arose from information discovered during Spratt's deposition last June 21 in the whistleblower case, according to the letter.

Dodge and his attorneys refused to comment about the letter, the deposition or the settlement, citing settlement negotiations.

Joe Childs, currently the managing editor for the Mid & North Pinellas editions of the Times who was in charge of the news department that covered the Dodge/Echelon stories in 2002, denied Kehoe's allegations.

"No one planted any story with us," Childs said. "The story that you discussed with me is based on public records. All of our reporting during that period was based on public records and interviews."

Spratt refused to comment and referred questions to **County Attorney Susan Churuti**, who also refused to comment.

The day Spratt demoted Dodge, he wrote two memos.

In a July 29, 2002, memo, Spratt notified Dodge that he was demoted, saying, "... facts in the Echelon matter clearly reflect poor judgment on your part. It is also not the first time you have presented me with inaccurate and/or misleading information."

The same day, Spratt sent county commissioners a memo that stated Echelon officials knew any commitment by county employees for funding was tentative and subject to commission approval, which Dodge already had explained in a July 23, 2002, four-page statement to Spratt and commissioners.

In coming to his conclusions, Spratt told commissioners he reviewed communication between Echelon, Dodge and other county officials.

"I find that some of the correspondence relied upon in recent media reports on this subject has unfortunately been misleading, based upon accounts of events I have today," Spratt wrote in his memo, adding that it was in the county's best interest to assist Echelon with its project.

About a week later, Dodge was asked to resign and sign a waiver that would have prevented him from suing the county. He refused.

Spratt fired him, citing missed meetings, poor work performance and improper promises.

Stressful times

As Dodge's boss, Spratt had the right to fire Dodge, but it was distressing, said Barbara Sheen Todd, who was commission chair at the time and has since retired.

"I never figured out what the big deal was because it was always understood the commission had to approve anything (Dodge) proposed," she said.

Commissioners also faced a chilling quandary after they were told they might have exposure in the deal.

Todd wanted a forensic audit of Lockheed, she said. But the county staff "intimated" that if fiscal mismanagement was uncovered, commissioners could be personally liable, she said.

Julio Maggi, who negotiated with the county as Echelon's VP, declined to discuss the Dodge controversy.

"As a TV detective once said, there are at least two sides to a story and then there's the truth," said Maggi, now COO at **Bella Vista Group** in Tampa. "I have no idea what the truth is."

TIMELINE:

Millions spent to develop jobs, but all they got were questions

1977 - Rick Dodge joins St. Petersburg city government as recreation director.

1980s and 1990s - Dodge is part of the team that gets baseball stadium built in St. Petersburg, plays a key role in convincing Major League Baseball to put a team in the city, helps garner \$2 million in state funding to bring the Salvador Dali Museum to the city.

1993 - Named city administrator for St. Petersburg.

June - August 1997 - Resigns as city administrator and is named Pinellas County assistant county administrator for economic development.

1999 - Lockheed Martin IMS wins a \$15 million contract with the county to provide federally funded work force development programs.

October 1999 - To help land and market a proposed \$19 million project in Carillon, Dodge discusses with Echelon Development the possibility of securing a future \$2.5 million county commitment for infrastructure in the development.

Late 2000 - Dodge questions Lockheed's performance after receiving complaints and hires KPMG to conduct an audit. The audit found the county and job programs were charged for some services that were not provided. Of 50 businesses contacted, only two verified placing employees. Lockheed denies any wrongdoing.

February 2001 - Lockheed terminates its contract as Dodge urges the county to conduct an in-depth forensic audit of the contractor's performance.

March 2001 - Lawyer Janet Gifford-Meyers, a senior manager at Pinellas County Economic Development, writes a memo to the Pinellas-Pasco state attorney about alleged improprieties in Lockheed work force programs. "I am uncomfortable with this matter not being placed in the hands of law enforcement for further examination," she wrote.

April 2001 - Gifford-Meyers is found dead in a Pasco County park. Her death is ruled a suicide caused by a barbiturate overdose.

August 2001 - Affiliated Computer Services in Dallas purchases the Lockheed subsidiary for \$825 million.

December 2001 - ACS files a lawsuit against the Pinellas County, alleging it is owed \$1.5 million for services Lockheed provided. Dodge continues to lobby for a forensic audit. New County Administrator Steve Spratt approves a payment of \$627,000 to ACS as partial settlement without County Commission approval.

Early 2002 - Tensions arise between Dodge and Spratt over the work force contract controversy.

July 2002 - Dodge is "loaned" to St. Petersburg College to manage the EpiCenter project.

July 20, 2002 - St. Petersburg Times story questions Dodge's activities regarding the \$2.5 million Echelon requested for its development.

July 23, 2002 - St. Petersburg Times editorial says, "It is difficult to see how Spratt or county commissioners could continue to trust Dodge to represent Pinellas County."

July 29, 2002 - Spratt demotes Dodge and cuts his pay.

August 2002 - Dodge is asked to resign and sign a waiver that would prevent him from suing the county, which he refused. He is fired Aug. 9 for alleged poor performance, missed meetings and improper promises.

September 2002 - Dodge is ranked top candidate for Charlotte County's administrator before commissioners learn about the Echelon controversy, forcing them to reject Dodge. "If these things are true, there's no way I could accept this man," Charlotte County Commissioner Tom D'Aprile tells the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

January 2003 - Dodge and Gifford-Meyers' husband file a federal lawsuit against the former Lockheed subsidiary for damages from alleged misconduct.

February 2003 - Dodge files a whistleblower lawsuit against the county, alleging he was forced out because of his claims that the former Lockheed subsidiary mismanaged job programs and services.

May 2003 - Dodge makes the short list for Polk County manager but isn't hired.

December 2003 - Pinellas County pays an additional \$600,000 to settle the ACS lawsuit for a total of more than \$1.2 million. About half came from money for work force programs.

August 2004 - A Tampa federal grand jury subpoenas records and documents from Pinellas County concerning the former Lockheed Martin IMS operations from January 1999 to March 2001.

October 2004 - The federal lawsuit against the former Lockheed subsidiary for damages is settled. The settlement is confidential.

June 2005 - Spratt is deposed in the Dodge lawsuit.

July 2005 - After a nonbinding arbitration hearing, an arbitrator rules in Dodge's favor. The arbitrator's opinion is sealed.

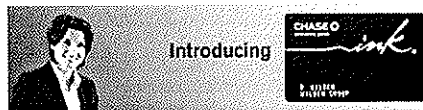
September 2005 - Pinellas County's motion for a summary judgment of the civil court lawsuit is denied.

October 4, 2005 - Greg Kehoe, Dodge's attorney, notifies Pinellas County that Dodge intends to file a false light lawsuit against the county because Spratt "maliciously acted to discredit" Dodge by "planting" a story in the St. Petersburg Times.

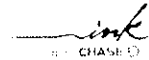
January 24, 2006 - The Pinellas County Commission authorizes negotiation of a settlement.

mhinman@bizjournals.com | 813.342.2477 jmeinhardt@bizjournals.com | 727.224.2299

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Friday, September 9, 2005

Whistleblower leaves active lawsuit in Pinellas, lands job near Ocala

By Jane Menhardt Staff Writer

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ST. PETERSBURG -- A small city near Ocala has tapped as its leader a well-known former Pinellas County assistant administrator who left in a cloud of controversy involving a major corporation.

Rick Dodge starts next month as Belleview's first city manager.

He was Pinellas' assistant county administrator for economic development from 1997 until 2002. County Administrator Steve Spratt fired him in a dispute over allegations that a former Lockheed Martin Corp.

subsidiary mismanaged a federally funded work force development program for Pinellas.

Prior to his county post, Dodge was St. Petersburg city administrator and played key roles in landing the city's Major League baseball team and obtaining a multimillion dollar grant to establish the Salvador Dali Museum.

His assistant county administrator's salary was \$131,000. As Belleview city manager, Dodge's annual salary is \$67,500.

"I told them they were getting a good buy on a used car," Dodge quipped.

With a population of about 4,000 and 52 city employees, a mayor and city commissioners managed Belleview in the past. Growth and other issues prompted the move to a city manager form of government, and the search for a leader ended with Dodge.

Quiet surroundings

The city in Marion County is sandwiched between The Villages to the south and Ocala to the north. The population within a 5-mile radius of Belleview is 40,000.

City planners project the city will double in size in five years.

"We've got some real growth issues," Belleview City Commission Kenneth Nadeau said. "We need someone with growth management experience to keep us from being swallowed up."

The commission selected Dodge from an initial pool of 25 candidates. The selection was partially based on Dodge's local, state and national contacts and ability to build networks and coalitions, Nadeau said.

"His resume speaks for itself," Belleview Commissioner Emery Abshier said. "This is a different kind of public service here, but he's already dealt with issues we're starting to deal with. We've got a lot of services business and services employees moving here."

Abshier also was impressed when Marion state legislators and a potential city lobbyist already knew Dodge.

"He's obviously made a good name for himself," he said.

Dodge, 61, plans to sell his home in St. Petersburg and already is looking for property around Belleview.

"It's a very progressive town," Dodge said. "They figured they better plan for the future, and they know what they don't want to be. I'm looking forward to the challenges there."



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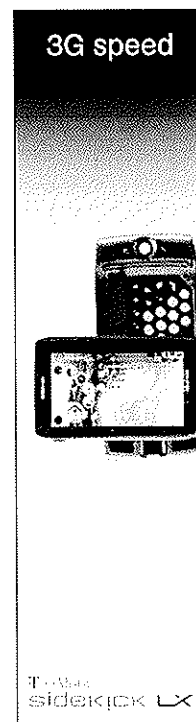
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A difficult landing

Dodge applied for nearly 200 public service posts since he was fired three years ago, he said.

The city investigated the circumstances surrounding Dodge's departure from the county and found they posed no obstacle to his selection, Nadeau and Abshier said.

Dodge was fired for pursuing a forensic audit into irregularities in the former Lockheed Martin's subsidiary work force contract activities. Lockheed Martin IMS had a \$15 million contract for job placement and related welfare services before it was sold to ACS State & Local Solutions Inc. in mid-2001.

Last year, a Tampa federal grand jury subpoenaed records from the county concerning Lockheed's operations from 1999 to March 2001. A federal lawsuit filed in connection with the controversy was settled last year.

Still pending is Dodge's whistleblower lawsuit in Pinellas circuit court. The county has tried unsuccessfully three times to get the case dismissed.

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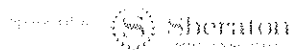
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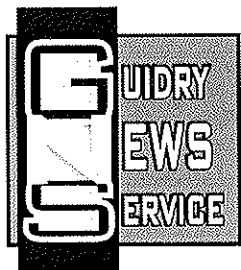
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News of The Gulf Coast Region

Galveston Park Board of Trustees

March 19, 2003

MAXIMUS, the consulting firm screening applicants for the position of executive of the Park Board of Trustees has provided the titles and locations of the applicants to the direction of Park Board Chair Danny Allen.

They are:

Randy L. Ankeny, Facilities Manager, The Lakes Country Club Association, Inc.

Patrick C. Apel, Executive Director, Plymouth County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Sharon Boudreaux-Stam, Executive Director, West Baton Rouge Tourist Commission

John F. Cassady, Director - Sales & Marketing, Stradling & Hampton

James A. Constantine, Director for Event Production, PCI Communications

Terry W. Cook, Director of Sales & Marketing, Best Western Inn of the Ozarks

Rick Dodge, Assistant County Administrator, Pinellas County Government

William H. Downs, District Sales & Marketing Manager, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts

Patricia Fitzpatrick, Tourism Director, Town of Provincetown, MA

David P. Lacki, Director of Tourism, Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau

Charles G. Langley, President, The Langley Group, Inc.

Clifford G. Lindemann, General Manager, Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel

Dale E. Lockett Jr., Acting Executive Director, San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau

Clair F. Moore (Mr.), Regional Director (former), Cayman Islands Department of Tourism

John H. Percy Jr., Vice President of Tourism, Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau

E. Cameron Reeder, President/CEO, North Alabama Tourism Association

Jef C. Russell III, Executive Director (former), Eureka Springs Visitors Bureau

James Tsismanakis, President/CEO, Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau

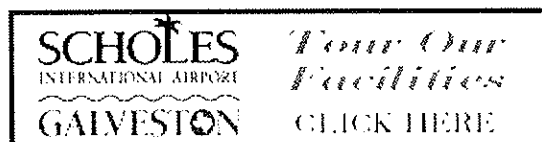
Jesse Walters, Executive Director, Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau

(This candidate has already withdrawn his application, but it is included because provided) John L. Welday, Owner/Consultant, SouthEast Advantage, Inc.
Gilbert G. Zimmerman, Chairman - Marketing Committee, California Roundtable Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

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Pinellas retraces promise of funds

Officials say they knew nothing of a \$2.5-million commitment made three years ago by Rick Dodge, who says it was approved.

By LISA GREENE, Times Staff Writer

© St. Petersburg Times, published July 20, 2002

Officials say they knew nothing of a \$2.5-million commitment made three years ago by Rick Dodge, who says it was approved.

As the leader of Pinellas County's economic development program, Rick Dodge made an unusual offer three years ago to a prominent local company.

Pinellas County would pay \$2.5-million to help build private roads for Echelon Development in its Carillon Town Center project, a 19-acre commercial "downtown" for the Carillon Office Park, Dodge wrote in a letter to the company. But the County Commission never voted to spend such a sum. Most commissioners say they were never asked about the offer.

Now, Echelon wants the money.

And county officials want answers. They want to know what led Dodge to make such an offer, which he didn't have the authority to do.

The questions put Dodge back in the spotlight just two weeks after he was moved out of his assistant county administrator job after what some commissioners described as tensions with new Administrator Steve Spratt.

Dodge said that former Administrator Fred Marquis and county commissioners had known about and approved the Echelon plan.

"The letter itself was approved by Fred," Dodge said. The letter, dated Oct. 28, 1999, indicates that a copy was sent to Marquis.

But Marquis said late Friday that, while he had attended some meetings with Echelon officials, he didn't remember seeing the letter and knew nothing about a commitment to spend \$2.5-million on Carillon roads.

"I wouldn't have the authority to do that," Marquis said.

Marquis had the authority to spend up to \$25,000 without commission approval.

"The County Commission is where the buck stops," said Commissioner Susan Latvala. If Dodge "was

speaking for the County Commission . . . no one has the authority to do that. Until we come together as a body, I can't speak for the commission."

If Dodge's account is accurate, it raises other questions, because commissioners aren't supposed to sign off on backroom deals that the public doesn't hear about.

"Any time we're doing any projects that offer tax incentives of any kind . . . it comes to the commission for approval," said Commissioner Karen Seel. "For budgeting, and for fairness."

Seel and Calvin Harris said they were certain that they had never been told.

"No. Nope. Not ever heard one peep about it," Seel said.

Former Commissioner Sallie Parks said she had no memory of such discussions. The other commissioners then on the board, Bob Stewart and Barbara Sheen Todd, could not be reached.

Questions about the issue began to escalate a few weeks ago, when an Echelon vice president wrote to Spratt, asking for "your promised help."

Julio Maggi, an Echelon vice president, asked Spratt for the "\$2.5mm earmarked by Pinellas County." "We have an excellent relationship with Pinellas County . . . They have always honored their commitments to us," he said.

County staff members have searched board records and documents in three departments to find out more. Spratt questioned managers and briefed commissioners.

Dodge said several other top staffers knew, but four assistant county administrators said Friday that they had never heard about it.

Dodge said that his 1999 letter to Echelon was not a commitment. Echelon executives knew the deal hinged on board approval, Dodge said, even though that prerequisite was not in the letter.

At the time, Pinellas was working with Echelon on a separate \$2.5-million project to approve building a ramp from Ulmerton Road to I-275, so Echelon executives knew how the process worked, Dodge said.

"I haven't signed any check in my life as a public servant and I'm certainly not starting now," Dodge said.

Harris disagreed with Dodge's assertion that everything was presented as conditional.

"That document does not say that," Harris said. "But I'm glad that he understands that's the way it should be."

In two county memos, Dodge repeatedly described the money as a "commitment."

"This commitment was discussed individually with each Commissioner prior to the attached letter being drafted and sent," Dodge wrote on April 30 of this year. "Echelon has now indicated a desire to proceed with the project and would like to know the form of the \$2.5M commitment."

In an interview this week, Dodge said he had suggested the offer to Marquis because the proposed

project, which would bring in \$19.4-million in taxes the first year, was in danger of folding.

Last year, the project was scaled back. Dodge said the offer had always been contingent on the original project and now must be re-evaluated. But that's not reflected in two April memos he wrote to other county officials.

Spratt said he was "in fact-finding mode" about what happened. But he said county staffers should always spell out money issues.

"Any written statement of commitment should have the clear understanding that it be subject to board approval," he said.

If it is the case that Dodge wrote the letter without being authorized to do so, would Spratt fire him?

"I was really hoping you wouldn't ask that," Spratt said. "I really don't care to answer that question."

Spratt recently moved Dodge from his job as assistant administrator to one supervising the startup of the Epicenter, a \$30-million joint project between the county and St. Petersburg College. Dodge requested the move, but several commissioners said Spratt was not pleased with him.

Now, commissioners said, they have to decide whether to give any money to Echelon.

"It puts us into an awkward situation," Seel said.

Seel and Harris said money was tight and giving money to a company for private road improvements would set a bad precedent.

"We need to go back and try to salvage this relationship," Harris said. "But there's not \$2.5-million in the budget for this partnership."

But Commissioner Ken Welch said he was worried about what decisions Echelon made because it expected the money.

"We need to have a discussion . . . to see what commitments they've made, based on what they thought were commitments from the county," he said.

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A Times Editorial

Breach of trust

Pinellas' economic director Rick Dodge has damaged his standing with county officials and taxpayers by making deals with private development without authorization.

© St. Petersburg Times, published July 23, 2002

Pinellas' economic director Rick Dodge has damaged his standing with county officials and taxpayers by making deals with private development without authorization.

When Rick Dodge was named Pinellas County's new economic development director in 1997, most observers expected him to bring a needed professionalism to the job, and Dodge has had his successes. But he has also displayed a loner mentality that is inappropriate to public service, making key decisions without consulting others and failing to keep his bosses and county residents informed on important issues. That behavior has finally caught up with Dodge.

Echelon Development recently notified County Administrator Steve Spratt that it expects the county to give the company \$2.5-million for one of its projects in the Carillon office park. "We reiterate our previous request for the \$2.5mm earmarked by Pinellas County to help defray the cost of the common area infrastructure supporting Carillon Town Center," Echelon vice president Julio Maggi said in a letter to Spratt. The request came as a surprise to Spratt.

So who committed millions of public dollars to a private development project? Rick Dodge did, and in a memo to Spratt, Dodge claims that former County Administrator Fred Marquis and "each member of the County Commission" approved of the expenditure. That is contrary to the memories of Marquis and the commissioners, however, and if it were true, doing such business in private would be a violation of the state's open government laws.

Dodge told a different story to Times staff writer Lisa Greene, claiming he had not committed the money to Echelon, but a letter from Dodge to Echelon chairman Darryl LeClair indicates otherwise. Dodge refers to "the county's previous commitment of \$2.5-million for infrastructure improvements. . ." in the letter.

Only the County Commission can approve such expenditures. And some commissioners say they have been embarrassed by Dodge. Spending tax dollars on a private development project would set a precedent that would be difficult to uphold.

This wouldn't be the first time Dodge was accused of playing fast and loose with development deals and failing to keep others informed. Such behavior might be expected in the corporate world, but Dodge is a public employee who is spending tax dollars. Before the recent embarrassment, Dodge's antics had already put him at odds with Spratt, his boss after Marquis retired. Spratt recently allowed Dodge to leave his post temporarily to work for St. Petersburg College as it opens the new Epicenter, a high-tech training facility. A county administrator isn't likely to let a trusted administrator moonlight on another


job.

Even Dodge's most loyal supporters believe he has made a serious error. County Commissioner Bob Stewart had worked with Dodge in St. Petersburg, as the city successfully brought the Tampa Bay Devil Rays to town, and recommended him for the county job. Dodge has "a brilliant mind," Stewart said, but his behavior "would tax all of us." As for Dodge's promise to Echelon, Stewart said, "clearly this would not be acceptable at any level."


Spratt is determining how to respond to the current controversy, which puts the county's reputation at risk no matter what is done. There is another reputation at stake: Dodge's. It is difficult to see how Spratt or county commissioners could continue to trust Dodge to represent Pinellas County.

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BASEBALL; All Eyes (or None?) Are on St. Petersburg

By Hilary Swank
Published: October 7, 2009

Maybe if they scheduled enough doubleheaders, all of the teams that are mentioned as prime candidates for moves to St. Petersburg's forlorn domed stadium could play there. The long-deprived fans of Florida's west coast could root for the St. Petersburg Giants on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the St. Petersburg Mariners on Mondays and Tuesdays and -- why not? -- the St. Petersburg Astros on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

"We'll take them all," said Rick Dodge, St. Petersburg's assistant city manager, who has worked feverishly for years to lure just one team to the city.

But schedule makers, hopeful fans and the Suncoast Dome ground crew shouldn't make their plans just yet. While there may seem to be logical and economic reasons for several teams to relocate, none is packing its balls and bats in boxes marked "for 1993 delivery."

The reason is that no team qualifies in an irrefutable, clear-cut way under Commissioner Fay Vincent's requirements for relocation:

1. Declining attendance and lack of fan support.
2. Out-of-date stadium with no chance of improvement or replacement in the near term.
3. Loss of money over an extended period.
4. Demonstrated lack of community (corporate and political) commitment.

Dodge, whose hard sell has developed into a diplomatic approach, said it is not for him to judge each prospective mover against the guidelines. But, he added, "the commissioner indicated in his last visit to Houston the nature of support in Houston made him question that marketplace, and in a visit to California, prior to the referendum in San Jose, he said the Giants had extended every effort to stay in the area."

The Mariners, Dodge said, also seem to meet the criteria.

"They're losing \$8 to \$10 million a year," he said. "They've never been successful in the marketplace, they have a questionable level of corporate and financial support."

Because voters in San Jose rejected a stadium referendum last week, the Giants are today's team on the verge of moving.

"Bob Lurie is pretty unusual in sports," Dodge said, referring to the Giants' owner. "Here's a guy committed to his area. He was going to put \$35 million into his area. He has stayed through four disappointments. My feeling is if he wanted to relocate, he could get

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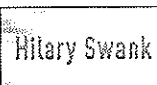
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permission."

Baseball officials view the San Jose defeat as another show of no-support in the community; three previous referendums, two in San Francisco itself, were also defeated.

Candlestick Park is considered a poor park. Attendance last year was the Giants' lowest in five years. But the total of 1,737,479 also was the seventh highest in the team's 34 years in San Francisco and attendance is up this season.

So, do the Giants have an obvious case for relocation? Lurie, for one, is not saying. The Giants' owner has refrained from discussing his future plans publicly, preferring to talk first with the commissioner and Bill White, the lame-duck National League president, in New York this week during the owners' quarterly meetings.

The Mariners are in limbo, waiting to learn if the owners will approve their sale to a group headed by the Nintendo people. Jerry Reinsdorf, the Chicago White Sox owner and member of the ownership committee, has effectively delayed the approval procedure, leaving the impression that the opposition stems from the Japanese involvement in the prospective purchase.

If the owners reject the Nintendo group, they would be hardpressed to allow the current owner, Jeff Smulyan, to move the team to St. Petersburg. Although the Mariners consistently lose money, they drew a record attendance of 2,147,905 last season and the stadium presents no problem. The matter of community support is questionable.

Permitting a move after a rejection could give the city and county good grounds for a lawsuit, which is just what the owners need.

John McMullen, who salvaged the Astros for Houston 13 years ago, has been trying to sell the team for more than a year. He has not tried to sell to someone who would try to move the team, although he would enthusiastically entertain the possibility if he were told he could.

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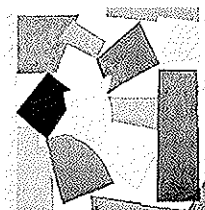
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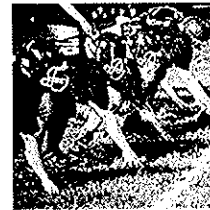


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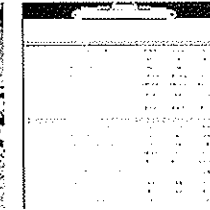


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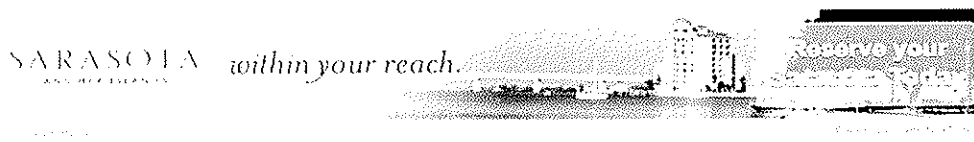
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BASEBALL; All Eyes (or None?) Are on St. Petersburg

BY STEVE LEE
PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

(Page 2 of 2)

The Astros have a good stadium, refurbished at the owner's expense, and they make money because they have one of the majors' smallest payrolls. But they have no community support, and last year they had their lowest attendance since 1978, 1,196,152.

An owner's desire to move could face a roadblock even if the commissioner were to approve the franchise shift. Each league's owners have reason to want to keep a team out of St. Petersburg.

The National League might not want an established team playing in Florida while its expansion team tries to establish itself in Miami. The American League might not want a National League team in St. Petersburg because it would leave the A.L. out of the state.

Dodge has heard those arguments, but he rejects them.

"The South Florida market is totally distinct and not connected to our market at all," the St. Petersburg official said. "No Bucs fans go to Miami to see the Dolphins. No Heat fans go to Orlando to see the Magic play. This is a large state. The Marlins are not a Tampa Bay team."

But will the Giants, the Mariners, the Astros or anyone else become a Tampa Bay team?
Fleming Makes a Difference

The first third of the season has produced no more remarkable achievement than the 8-1 record of Dave Fleming, the Mariners' rookie pitcher. The 22-year-old left-hander has an .889 winning percentage compared with .318 (14-30) for the Mariners in games when he hasn't had a decision. That is a 571-point difference, the biggest for pitchers with six or more victories and their teams.

Next biggest difference is the 543 percentage points between Bill Swift's 1.000 (6-0) and the Giants' .457 (21-25), but after that, no one is close.

Roger Clemens, for example, has an 8-3 record and a .727 percentage while Boston, in other games, has a 16-21 record and a .432 percentage for a difference of 295 points. Kevin Brown (8-3) and Texas (24-22) have a 205-point difference, Tom Glavine (8-3) and Atlanta (18-25) 308 points, Ben McDonald (7-2) and Baltimore (25-18) 197 points and Rick Sutcliffe (8-4) and Baltimore (24-16) 67 points. Van Slyke Is Hurting

Andy Van Slyke, Pittsburgh's witty center fielder, was talking about the fuss made recently over Bobby Bonilla's use of earplugs at Shea Stadium. "You'd think he exposed himself in
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the bullpen," Van Slyke said.

Van Slyke wishes something as simple as earplugs could alleviate his back problem. It has limited his power -- he hit only his second home run Friday night -- and it has restricted his noted ability for making diving catches in the outfield.

"Jose Offerman hit a ball in front of me," he said, speaking of the Los Angeles shortstop. "In the past, I would have dived for it. Then Mitch Webster hit the ball out of the ball park. It devastated me. I didn't throw the pitch, but I felt just as responsible."

The only diving catch he has made this year, Van Slyke said, was in spring training.

"I was fishing on a river bank in Florida, and I got this 10-pound bass," he related. "It started to flip back. I couldn't let it get away so I tackled it. Then I threw it back." Another Puckett Admirer

Watching a replay of Kirby Puckett's second grand slam in the space of six games, Jim Leyland, the Pirates' manager, shook his head in admiration.

"How does he do that?" Leyland asked. "The bases are loaded, he walks up to the plate, the fans are screaming, he's real patient, he gets a pitch he likes and whacks it out. No way I could do that. My legs would be shaking."

In a six-year minor league career as a player, Leyland hit four home runs. Not-So-Funny Reaction

Maybe it's the money, maybe it's a reflection of the serious problems society has, but too many people in and around baseball seem to have lost their sense of humor.

A few weeks ago, Richard Moss, a veteran representative of players, was discussing the increase in the number of players on the disabled list this season.

"With recent history," Moss said, "everybody assumes players will be on the disabled list. If a player stays healthy all year, he should get a bonus on top of his salary."

Moss's tongue was lodged firmly in one of his cheeks, but some people who read his comment took him seriously and sharply criticized him for saying that players' salaries aren't enough, that they should get extra pay for the accomplishment of not getting hurt.

Moss has come up with some innovative contractual ideas, but extra pay for full-season play isn't one of them.

Photo: Baltimore's Rick Sutcliffe is one of a handful of pitchers to win eight games this season. (Agence France-Presse)

The real cougar fans
Good night and tough luck

nytimes.com

OPINION



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STADIUM FOR RENT:
Tampa Bay's Quest for Major League Baseball
 By **BOB ANDELMAN**



... Do you know a Rick Dodge from St. Petersburg?...

8. Don't Screw With Mr. Dodge

*"Rick is an unusual public servant.
 His mind is fast, he's an excellent strategist,
 well thought of and he's a good friend.
 He doesn't get ruffled.
 He's looking at what's best for St. Petersburg
 and not what's best for Rick Dodge.
 Very unselfish.
 There was nothing in it for him."
 -- Peter Bavasi, former baseball executive*

Thanks to his high visibility as St. Petersburg's chief negotiator with the Chicago White Sox, the Florida Legislature and Frank Morsani, assistant city manager Rick Dodge emerged from obscurity in 1988. Never again would he be referred to simply as "assistant city manager Rick Dodge" -- from that time on he became St. Petersburg's "point man" on all things baseball.

It's a responsibility the recruiter never mentioned when Dodge was hired in 1977.

* * *

Born in Philadelphia on June 29, 1944, Richard B. Dodge grew up and was educated in Alexandria, Virginia.

Dodge was 24 and studying for a masters degree in marketing at the University of Virginia when his mother, Dorothy, died of a stroke. Not much later, Dodge and his older brother, Bill, learned that their father, William Dodge, had Alzheimer's. William died three years later in Virginia after spending his last year with Rick.

One night father and son went fishing. One minute his father was fine, the next he couldn't figure out how to flip the bale over the spinning reel. But the air was cool and the fish were biting and there was a great sense of love between father and son. At sunset, William said, "Well, Rick, I know how I want to die. I want to be shot dead at age 100 by a jealous husband."

The elder Dodge spent his life as a civil and mechanical engineer. He went bankrupt in the 1960s when his oil burner installation service went sour. But despite being legally relieved of his debts by the court, William struggled and paid everyone off over the next 10 years. Rick gained resiliency from that; he also took strength from his mother, who went back to college at age 45. At the time of her death she was comptroller of St. Mary's College in North Carolina. "She was incredible, the single most determined human being I have ever known," Dodge says.

William and Dorothy raised two sons, Rick and Bill. Bill, four years older, was in the Peace Corps when Rick entered the University of Virginia. Both were active in high school and college sports. Bill ran cross-country and marathons, rowed crew and played basketball in high school; Rick played football and baseball, rowed crew and wrestled. "I wasn't any good as a wrestler, though," Dodge says. "I saw a lot of lights, as the expression goes."

While earning his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Virginia in the late 1960s, Dodge worked as a teacher's aide in a federally funded project that brought children with learning disabilities into a classroom. One day there was a letter waiting for him at his fraternity house offering a job teaching a high school class for the mentally retarded.

"I called them and said, 'You must have made a mistake because I never interviewed. I know nothing about dealing with the retarded.' They said they had been down and seen the program that I worked in and were impressed with me," he recalls.

It was a challenge. Twenty-five students, ages 16 through 23, kids who didn't fit in anywhere else. They were emotionally disturbed, kids with learning disabilities and the profoundly retarded.

It was a dumping ground.

"There was no curriculum. This was special education truly in its infancy," Dodge says. "I learned the first week that if you don't know what you're doing, keep them busy. I'd go home at night and work three hours on what to do the next day. You learn that things you thought would take an hour can take five minutes. You end up planning 10 hours of work for a six-hour day because you don't know what the frustration level will be.

"I decided what we needed to worry about was not whether these kids could read or write but whether they could survive. Everything we did was based upon motivations that I thought would get them to be self-sufficient in life. Instead of using 'Dick and Jane' readers we used the Division of Motor Vehicles instruction book and the goal was to get learner's permits. Instead of doing essays we filled out job applications. Instead of doing rows of numbers we learned how to do a checking account."

Dodge's students had no books, so he collected leftovers from around the school.

"I used to go to these seminars and they would talk about all these lofty goals in education and I'd say to myself, 'What am I going to do tomorrow?' " he says. "One kid in my class was autistic and didn't speak. But I didn't know about autism. The kid had one pair of shoes with huge holes that he wore all the time. For Christmas I got him a pair of shoes and he looked at me and said, 'I love you.' Those were the first words he said after four months in my class."

There were moments less tender.

"The first weekend I was in school, I went into the bathroom and there was a big kid shaking down a little kid. He had a knife out, demanding lunch money. What should I do? The little kid scurried out of the bathroom and I'm between the door and this kid. I said, 'Don't make this any worse, just put the knife down and go up to see the principal.' That's what you're supposed to do. But the kid said, 'Get out of my fucking way.' I'm listening and hoping to hear running footsteps down the corridor as this kid goes by me. It was just reflex but I reached out to stop him. I don't know if he intended to hurt me but he turned toward me with this knife in his hand. So I kicked him in the nuts. Laid him out on the floor. The principal came in and the kid was on the floor whining and crying. The knife scattered under the urinal and I figured my career was over. I went to the principal's office. The kid came up and apologized to me. His parents thought I was going to bring criminal charges but I didn't so I had this rep in school. 'Don't screw with Mr. Dodge -- he'll kick you in the nuts.' "

The first sign that Dodge's unconventional approach was working with his students came when 10 of his 15 eligible students passed their driver's exams. "The whole point," he says, "was it was something they wanted. I can't express what those kids felt like and looked like when they got handed a driver's permit." Then he thought, what really counts here is their ability to hold a job, so he refocused the kids' attention on filling out job applications and interviewing techniques. He received permission from the high school principal to look for employers who might hire the older kids in the afternoons.

IBM was starting a new factory and they agreed to participate.

Dodge took his program district-wide during two subsequent years but ultimately he burned out.

He took a 180-degree turn and responded to a newspaper advertisement for a parks and recreation director in Stafford County, Virginia. He was hired the same day. Surprise: He was the department's first employee. "I had no office. I had no staff. Nothing." But Dodge hired a staff and during his four years won 10 national awards for bringing the arts into a rural county.

He developed a revenue-producing, self-sustaining, 600-acre park in Virginia. "We got the owner to donate the land for a tax write-off. We got the state to build a fishing lake. We got a grant from the federal government to develop campgrounds and then a swimming pool. It was a question of finding creative solutions," he says.

Glamorous? No. When the Little League ballpark opened, Dodge lined the playing fields. When the parks department sponsored plays, Dodge was a ticket-taker. He started an adult education program by using empty classrooms at night. "We took this little ad out in the paper," he recalls. "It said, 'Lonely? Call Sylvia.' We got 5,000 calls and Sylvia -- my secretary -- would answer and say, 'If you're lonely, try taking our pottery class.'"

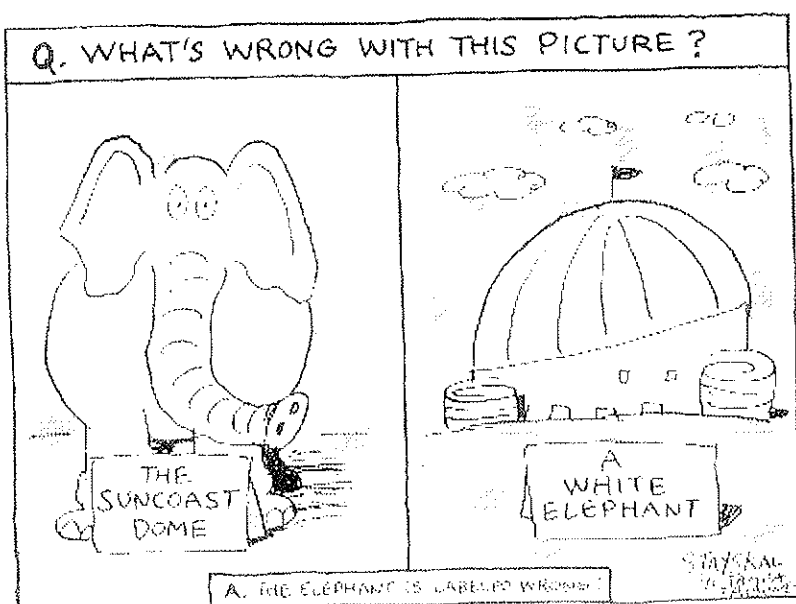
"The whole point," he says, "was, how do we energize the community? You haven't lived until you go around a county that is 80 percent agricultural and tell them they need to put land aside for parks. They think land is what you plant crops on and what you're buried in. We were rural -- right outside of Washington, D.C. You could see the wave coming. The county went from a 30,000 population to 300,000 in a decade."

While working in Stafford County, Dodge lived at home with his parents and went to graduate school at the University of Virginia. It wasn't easy: the university was a two-hour drive, which he made three times a week for five years. "Somebody asked me, 'What was the hardest thing about the master's program?' It was the drive."

From rural Stafford County he moved on to become recreation director of New Castle County, Delaware, a more urban setting with nearly 500,000 residents and plenty of established facilities, from city ballparks to golf courses.

"It was a wonderful situation -- people were full of piss and vinegar and we felt there wasn't anything we couldn't do. That was really a wonderful time," Dodge says. He stayed four years.

* * *



Someone recommended Dodge to the City of St. Petersburg when the parks and recreation director decided to retire after 40 years. The city wanted someone to work as a deputy for a transitional period and then assume the position.

"I had never been to Florida," Dodge says. "I came down in January. They took me to the beach and they talked about this city that was on the edge of fulfilling all these things. There was a pretty strong ethic supporting the parks system. The day that they offered me the job, Johnny Carson had this bit on the *Tonight Show*. He said he had just gotten back from St. Petersburg, Florida

... 'The town of the newly wed and nearly dead ... Where you don't put a glass of water on the table because someone will throw their teeth into it.' "

Dodge covered his water glass and accepted the job. He moved to St. Petersburg and started work in June 1977.

"I came to St. Petersburg and hated it," he says. "I wasn't used to the heat and had a hard time the first summer. My first day I went to look at a sandcastle contest on the beach with my wool suit on. I was by myself and the community was older and very conservative. I had a hard time finding any place to connect in the community.

"The department was archaic and non-responsive. The guy that I was replacing was a legend. He knew everybody and he was a wonderfully charming, social guy but a terrible manager. It was just a mess. My first day as director I fired the ranking supervisor for theft. I closed a zoo; it was unsanitary. Bears in cages slightly bigger than them. It was the only time I hated my job because I saw all these problems I couldn't act on. I had no idea how difficult it is to turn around an agency like that.

"There were a lot of controversies," he says. "One of my first projects was building a nine-hole golf course. People said it would never work. It would lose a ton of money. That was my first opportunity to demonstrate competency on a project."

Hiring talented employees helped. Lee Metzger came on board as a recreation director and eventually took over the whole department. Herb Polson was hired from the police department and became Dodge's administrative services officer, later going on to city hall with Dodge as intergovernmental liaison officer. Anita Treiser ran the city's first volunteer program and marketing manager Rich Hickman also came along under Dodge in the leisure services offices. They all stayed with him through good times and bad.

"Rick Dodge came in and took a department that was running okay and he modernized it," Polson says. "Volunteer programs. Marketing. Public relations. He started all that stuff."

City manager Raymond Harbaugh reorganized the city and expanded the grasp of the recreation department to all leisure services, from libraries to the Bayfront Center. "We had a broader charge and I thought it was a neat opportunity," Dodge says. He oversaw construction of three libraries and spearheaded a public/private partnership that lured the Salvador Dali Museum to St. Petersburg in 1982. His work was rewarded in 1983 when the department won a Gold Medal award from the National Recreation & Parks Association.

"I had a couple of really attractive opportunities elsewhere. Minneapolis, Houston. The normal thing would have been to go. I am not very good at doing the same thing twice."

Dodge earned a promotion to assistant city manager in 1985 and spread his talented staffers across the city, giving Treiser, Polson, Mussett, Metzger and Hickman control or influence over virtually all aspects of city operations.

END CHAPTER 8

Acknowledgements

Introduction

Meanwhile, in San Francisco . . .

One. Where Did All My Friends Go?

Chapter 1. About Last Night

Chapter 2. For a Team to Be Named Later

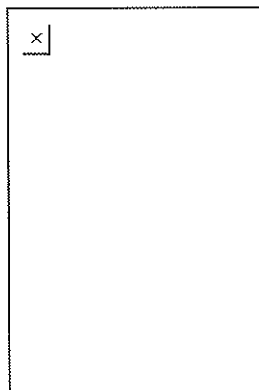
Chapter 3. Is It Later, Yet?

Two. Blame It On Bowie

Chapter 4. The Egg

Chapter 5. The Chicken

Chapter 6. Don't Build It. We Won't Come.



Chapter 7. Taking Away Tom's Bone
Chapter 8. Don't Screw With Mr. Dodge
Chapter 9. Anatomy of a Fast Pitch

Three. We Are the Competition

Chapter 10. Can't Tell the Players Without a Scorecard
Chapter 11. Such a Bargain!
Chapter 12. The Pitch
Chapter 13. Happy Holidays, Mr. Morsani
Chapter 14. The Dog and Pony Show
Chapter 15. That's Not Funny, Pat
Chapter 16. H. Wayne's World
Chapter 17. Deep Pockets, Short Arms
Chapter 18. Heartbreak City

Four. Dream On

Chapter 19. Something's Got to Give
Chapter 20. Wish I May, Wish I Might
Chapter 21. The Gameboys of Summer

Five. Take a Giant Step

Chapter 22. The Artful Dodger
Chapter 23. Do You Know the Way to San Jose?
Chapter 24. Four Guys Named Vincent
Chapter 25. Make The Check Payable To Bill White
Chapter 26. Bottom of the Ninth, Two On, Two Out, Winning
Lawyers in Position

Epilogue

About the Author

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Arnold, Bradley

From: rick dodge [e3rick@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2009 7:16 AM
To: Arnold, Bradley
Subject: Re: Final Background Checks on E5 Solutions and You

Dear Bradley:

Thank you for the thoughtful and candid review. You have a well earned reputation for responsible, smart and accountable leadership. I will call this morning and discuss your solid questions. Sorry the cell phone failed which meant I did not receive your inquiry until this morning. I, too, look forward to serving you, the Board, the businesses and the taxpayers of Sumter County.

Blessings,
Rick

On Wed, Oct 7, 2009 at 10:09 PM, Arnold, Bradley <Bradley.Arnold@sumtercountyfl.gov> wrote:

Rick,

I left you a message at the contact information contained in the proposal but I wanted to also follow up with this email. I would appreciate an opportunity to talk to you tomorrow regarding my agenda item that contains the recommendation of the selection committee.

I want to ensure that there is no unanswered issues of your past that could be revealed and cause damage to the BOCC if they select your firm for contract negotiations.

It is apparent that Mr. Steve Spratt did not possess the greatest judgment based on the final cause of his resignation from Pinellas County. Recognizing that issue, I can draw the conclusion to the atmosphere in which you were working before that time when you were not supported by him in the business deal with Echelon Development as well as the lack of support in the audit of the Lockheed Martin IMS deal.

I have read the references of 2 books about you that were positive and several laudatory articles of your business attitude and development of strong relationships with folks.

The only issue that I have not understood fully is the December 2005 article where you accepted then declined the City Manager position citing a rethinking of the relocation impact to your wife's business – can you explain this issue further?

10/8/2009

I noticed that e5 Solutions, Inc. is a month old corporation but I recognize that for a joint venture approach (the folks listed in the proposal) that this is not uncommon and provides for a separation of liability and focal point with which to contract for services – am I correct in this assumption?

My last question to ask you is: Are you aware of any other negative articles or issues regarding the individuals listed or you that I need to be aware of?

Based on my current knowledge of you and your team, I have no objections that I can raise to working through the contract negotiations with you, if awarded, or working closely to accomplish the larger task of growing Sumter County. I look forward to sharing some economic development war stories with ya'll.

Bradley Arnold

County Administrator

(352) 793-0200 - voice

(352) 303-0375 - cell

(352) 793-0207 - fax

910 North Main Street

Bushnell, Florida 33513

Bradley.Arnold@sumtercountyfl.gov

******* Important Notice *******

The Board of Sumter County Commissioners is a public agency subject to Chapter 119 of Florida Statutes concerning public records.

Detail by Entity Name

Florida Non Profit Corporation

SUMTER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

Filing Information

Document Number 732741
FEI/EIN Number 592870873
Date Filed 05/13/1975
State FL
Status ACTIVE
Last Event NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT
Event Date Filed 03/24/2003
Event Effective Date NONE

Principal Address

408 E SEMINOLE AVE
BUSHNELL FL 33513

Changed 03/03/2006

Mailing Address

P.O. BOX 337
BUSHNELL FL 33513

Changed 03/03/2006

Registered Agent Name & Address

WINCHESTER, LINDA J
408 E SEMINOLE AVE.
BUSHNELL FL 33513 US

Name Changed: 05/20/2009

Address Changed: 04/17/2008

Officer/Director Detail

Name & Address

Title VP

WADE, JAMES III
116 BUSHNELL PLAZA
BUSHNELL FL 33513

Title PP

SIMPSON, JON
POB 249
WILDWOOD FL 34785

Title S

BRYANT, TRACY
100 LEM CARNES RD.
DAVENPORT FL 33837

Title T

CRENSHAW, TERRY
11262 NORTH US 301
OXFORD FL 34484

Annual Reports

Report Year Filed Date	
2007	03/02/2007
2008	04/17/2008
2009	05/20/2009

2009 NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# 732741

FILED
May 20, 2009
Secretary of State**Entity Name:** SUMTER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**Current Principal Place of Business:**408 E SEMINOLE AVE
BUSHNELL, FL 33513**New Principal Place of Business:****Current Mailing Address:**P.O. BOX 337
BUSHNELL, FL 33513**New Mailing Address:****FEI Number:** 59-2870873 **FEI Number Applied For ()** **FEI Number Not Applicable ()** **Certificate of Status Desired ()**
In accordance with s. 607.193(2)(b), F.S., the corporation did not receive the prior notice.**Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:**THRASHER, RICHARD JR
408 E SEMINOLE AVE.
BUSHNELL, FL 33513 US**Name and Address of New Registered Agent:**WINCHESTER, LINDA J
408 E SEMINOLE AVE.
BUSHNELL, FL 33513 US

The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.

SIGNATURE: LINDA J. WINCHESTER

05/20/2009

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent

Date

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:**Title:** VP () Delete
Name: WADE, JAMES III
Address: 116 BUSHNELL PLAZA
City-St-Zip: BUSHNELL, FL 33513**Title:** P (X) Delete
Name: RICE, KELLY
Address: 1034 W HWY 48
City-St-Zip: BUSHNELL, FL 33513**Title:** PP () Delete
Name: SIMPSON, JON
Address: POB 249
City-St-Zip: WILDWOOD, FL 34785**Title:** S () Delete
Name: BRYANT, TRACY
Address: 100 LEM CARNES RD.
City-St-Zip: DAVENPORT, FL 33837**Title:** T () Delete
Name: CRENSHAW, TERRY
Address: 11262 NORTH US 301
City-St-Zip: OXFORD, FL 34484**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:****Title:** () Change () Addition
Name:
Address:
City-St-Zip:**Title:** () Change () Addition
Name:
Address:
City-St-Zip:**Title:** () Change () Addition
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Address:
City-St-Zip:

I hereby certify that the information supplied with this filing does not qualify for the exemption stated in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. I further certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am an officer or director of the corporation or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 617, Florida Statutes; and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with an address, with all other like empowered.

SIGNATURE: JAMES E. WADE, III

VP

05/20/2009

Electronic Signature of Signing Officer or Director

Date

Mary Jane Stanley

Seeking new position

Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida Area

- Past**
- Executive Director at Sumter County Economic Development Council
 - President/CEO at Pasco Economic Development Council
 - Downtown Development Director at City of Tallahassee

- Education**
- Nova Southeastern University
 - University of Florida

Recommended 1 person has recommended Mary Jane

Connections 43 connections

Industry Real Estate

Mary Jane Stanley's Summary

I have extensive experience in the fields of economic development and downtown development. I can provide assistance in the areas of strategic planning, site selection, land use determination, permitting assistance, workforce development, business recruitment and organizational management.

Mary Jane Stanley's Specialties:

Economic Development
Downtown Development
Government Liaison

Mary Jane Stanley's Experience

Executive Director

Sumter County Economic Development Council

(Real Estate industry)

August 2009 — September 2009 (2 months)

My 6 weeks contract at the Sumter County EDC has ended I am looking for other consulting work.

President/CEO

Pasco Economic Development Council

(Public Relations and Communications industry)

July 1999 — July 2009 (10 years 1 month)

I resigned from the position of President on June 30, 2009

Downtown Development Director

City of Tallahassee

(Government Agency; Government Administration industry)

February 1994 — July 1999 (5 years 6 months)

Mary Jane Stanley's Education

Nova Southeastern University

MBA , Real Estate Development , 1989 — 1991

University of Florida

1973 — 1975

Additional Information

Mary Jane Stanley's Interests:

Travel, golf, gourmet cooking

Mary Jane Stanley's Groups:

CREW Tampa Bay, REIC, FEDC, IEDC, IAMC

CREW Tampa Bay

Mary Jane Stanley's Honors:

- Named Florida Economic Development Council's- Economic Development Professional of the Year in 2008
- Outstanding Public Servant Award-West Pasco Chamber of Commerce 2006
- Finalist in Government Category, Tampa Bay Business Journal-2005 Business Woman of the Year
- Chairman, Florida Economic Development Council (2004/05) Executive Board 9/96-6/99 and 1/02 to 2006

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Tampa Bay Business Journal - by Janet Leiser Staff Writer

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Let's have a rational debate about health care reform

The Pasco Economic Development Council called an emergency session Tuesday morning to discuss the resignation of its longtime chief executive.

The board, chaired by Stewart Gibbons of Terrabrook, voted to accept the resignation of Mary Jane Stanley.



Stanley

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"Mary Jane has been instrumental in the growth and success of the PEDC over the past 10 years," Gibbons said in a statement. "We are proud of the way the organization is positioned for the future, and we wish Mary Jane well."

The *St. Petersburg Times* reported earlier Tuesday that Pasco elected officials were upset with Stanley for published remarks about problems with the county's building permitting process.

But Stanley's remarks shouldn't have come as a surprise. Pasco has struggled with its "anti-development" image for years.

In April 2008, the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* reported an Urban Land Institute study found relations were strained between the development community and Pasco officials.

One ULI board member said that "developers felt the county was very unpredictable and uneven in its development review process, that the county had no clear standards that needed to be met, that the staff was untrained and that decisions were made based upon political lobbying primarily in the development review committee process."

On Tuesday, the PEDC, a nonprofit agency, named John Walsh its interim president while it searches for a permanent replacement.

The county, long known as a bedroom community to Tampa and Pinellas County, is working to change its image and diversify its economy.

The agency's "strategic initiatives will guide us to new opportunities for improving Pasco's business climate for the attraction and expansion of high value jobs," Gibbons said. "Business leadership is our most valuable asset."

The *Business Journal* was unable to reach Stanley.

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13. Pasco County, FL

13 of 25

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Towns include: Wesley Chapel, Land O' Lakes
 Job growth (2000-2008): 55.9%

This sleepy retirement community on the coast got a wake up call with an influx of young workers over the past decade.

Retail and service jobs followed a boom in residential construction, and the area is trying to attract other businesses as well.

T. Rowe Price is reportedly eyeing Pasco with a project in mind that could bring 1,600 jobs, according to Mary Jane Stanley, president of the Pasco Economic Development Council. For now, the public school system, sheriff's department and local and state government are the county's largest employers.

NEXT: Williamson County, TX



Last updated July 24 2009, 4:23 PM ET

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Economic council's CEO exits

By Jodie Tillman, Times Staff Writer

Published Tuesday, June 30, 2009

LUTZ — As a key player in sensitive business deals, Mary Jane Stanley practiced the art of playing her cards close to her vest.

On Tuesday, she left the county-funded Pasco Economic Development Council the same way she led it.

Discreetly.

Saying she was ready for new challenges after a decade at the helm, Stanley submitted a resignation letter to the council's board, which voted to accept it in a closed, nearly 1 1/2-hour meeting.

The board approved a severance package for Stanley, who made \$110,323 a year. Board chairman Stew Gibbons declined to reveal the details.

The board's emergency meeting came amid rumors that some board members were ready to oust Stanley from her job as chief executive officer for reasons that weren't clear. The board's executive committee met late last week, though Gibbons would not say what action it took.

Her tenure had been relatively free of public controversy, and she is credited with playing a role in most of the industry relocations to the county, including the proposed T. Rowe Price project in Land O'Lakes. Last year, the Florida Economic Development Council named her the 2008 Eunice Sullivan Economic Development Professional of the Year.

The most recent criticism of Stanley involved unflattering remarks she made to a business publication about Pasco's permitting process. ("We have a bad reputation," she told the *Maddux Business Report*. "Trying to get a permit is horrible.")

The EDC gets money from Pasco County — this year, nearly half of its \$930,000 budget — to promote the county as a place to do business and to recruit firms with higher paying jobs. Some county officials were miffed that someone in Stanley's position would make such public comments.

On Tuesday Stanley declined to address any criticisms board members may have had. She said that the decision to leave was her own and that she submitted her resignation letter over the weekend.

"I had committed to staying in Pasco for 10 years," she said. "It's time for me to have some different challenges. I feel like I've put it (the organization) in a really good place."

Gibbons declined to provide details about Stanley's departure, saying it was on good terms.

"She's made significant contributions ... and we respect her decision to move on at this time," said Gibbons, president of Connerton, a large residential community in central Pasco.

Gibbons would not say whether board members had contemplated firing Stanley, calling the organization a private foundation.

"Part of the underpinnings of a private organization is being able to conduct its affairs in private," he said.

He declined to say whether Stanley's public remarks about the county's permitting office had any role in her departure. He said no one from outside the agency, including the public officials who hold the purse strings, had asked for any leadership changes.

"I don't think there was any pressure to make changes," Gibbons said. "The opinions of the stakeholders are always important, and the county is obviously one of our biggest stakeholders."

He declined to say whether the board's vote Tuesday had been unanimous but said it was a "definite consensus."

John Walsh, the second in command at EDC, will serve as interim CEO and is a candidate for the permanent position, Gibbons said.

Stanley's departure comes at a pivotal moment for the EDC, which is at the beginning of a six-year campaign, called New Pasco, to change the way it does business.

The organization is going after higher-level investors and creating a new governance model that puts a sharper focus on key business advisers who will come up with new, more aggressive ideas for attracting companies to Pasco.

Stanley is also leaving just days after her counterpart at the Pasco Hernando Jobs and Education Partnership, Lee Ellzey, got booted by his board following a state investigation of his agency.

Ellzey served on the EDC board, and Stanley on the partnership board. She initially abstained on voting on his firing, citing legal advice about a conflict of interest, but later voted with the board to dismiss him.

Stanley said she and her husband, Michael, a college instructor, plan to stay in Pasco County, which is about halfway between relatives in Tallahassee and Fort Lauderdale.

Saying she needs a break from 60-hour workweeks, Stanley plans to take a trip to Germany to visit her mother's family. When she comes back, she said she'll start looking for consulting work.

"You get to a point where you just get worn out," she said. "I submitted my resignation knowing it was time."

Jodie Tillman can be reached at jtillman@sptimes.com or (727) 869-6247.

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Pasco County to get new housing community

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

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The Wiregrass will be home to 35,000 new residents.

Eight thousand new homes are set to be developed in southeast Pasco County.

But, can it succeed in a softening housing market?

The Wiregrass will be home to 35,000 new residents.

Developer Scott Campbell said it will include three distinct communities, one designed for families, one designed for

seniors and one designed for executives.

"It gives us an opportunity to appeal to a wide variety of consumers in the Tampa Bay area," Campbell said. "Each will be something unique and distinct to those brands from a lifestyle and an amenities aspect in those communities."

It's a huge project that will transform the southeast portion of the county.

Right now, most of what will one day be the Wiregrass is wilderness, so there's a lot of land yet to be cleared before home construction can begin. However, construction on the main road running through the Wiregrass has already begun.

Pasco County Economic Development Council President Mary Jane Stanley said it will have a major impact on the Bay area.

"It's a lot of homes, but you've got a thousand people a day moving into Florida and they're coming somewhere," Stanley said. "Pasco is in a growth pattern. We've planned for it and the product they're offering will make a big difference."



Scott Campbell is the developer of the Wiregrass.

Stanley said the Wiregrass will succeed despite ups and downs in the housing market.

Tampa Bay Business Journal correspondent Michael Hinman agrees.

"It's not one of those things that affects projects like this," Hinman said. "It will be built out long term. They're talking about 10 to 12 years for it to happen."

That means it should be completed by 2016. Only time will tell if the Wiregrass can succeed regardless of marketing trends.

The Wiregrass project will also include more than 1.5 million square feet of retail and office space, and more than 1,000 of the 5,000 total acres will be preserved for conservation and open space.

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New man at helm of FAITH center

Volunteer takes reins of lifeline for poor

ROXANNE BROWN
Staff Writer

GROVELAND — Since 1972, the FAITH Neighborhood Center has been a lifeline for some of the poorest residents of South Lake. Now it is up to Jerry Colyer to keep the center running smoothly.

Colyer, 69, retired from his work as an industrial engineer with the federal government in 1999. He has been a volunteer at the neighborhood center for the past five years.

"I've been a volunteer there for a long time. It's a worthwhile thing and we need to keep it going," said Colyer. "We're providing a good service and I felt this is what I needed to do."

The previous director, Ralph Sickmiller, retired July 31 and passed the torch to Colyer, who had been his assistant since January.

With the help of about 50 volunteers and donations from local churches, businesses, serv-

ice organizations and individuals, the center provides help to families throughout south Lake County and its neighboring communities.

In addition, the center hosts several fundraising projects throughout the year — including an annual charity golf classic at the Diamond Players Club in December — and supports toy and food drives around the holidays.

According to Colyer, the center provides food, clothing and baby items for 500 to 600 families a month.

"That translates to about 20,000-25,000 people we help each year, so its fulfilling quite a need," said Colyer. "But if we didn't have volunteers, we wouldn't be able to keep it going."

He credits the volunteers for much of the center's success.

Most of the families who qualify for aid are already receiving other assistance, and the center provides supplementary care.



Colyer

Families eligible for aid are given a two-day supply of food once a month. Most of the food provided is nonperishable, and includes baby formula.

Families are also allowed to visit the center twice a week for bread and clothes.

Colyer said the center would

See COLYER, Page 52

Sickmiller led organization for five years

ROXANNE BROWN
Staff Writer

CLERMONT — After five years as the FAITH Neighborhood Center's executive director, Ralph Sickmiller, 74, decided it was time to move on.

After his last day on July 31, Sickmiller said he felt both relieved and melancholy about his decision.

"Basically, the time came. I've been at retirement age for several years and decided I had to sit back and do something a little different — just time for a little change of pace," said Sickmiller.

Sickmiller said he still finds himself referring to the center using words like "we" and "us" out of habit, although he knows he is no longer a part of it.

"The center is in good hands," said Sickmiller of new Executive Director Jerry Colyer. "Everybody thinks he is a good fit. He's been there longer than I have as a volunteer. He'll do

great."

Although Sickmiller said he did not accomplish everything he wanted during his tenure, he said he feels he did some good while in charge.

Along with the everyday running of the center, Sickmiller said he is glad to have secured the new building in Groveland and presided over a smooth transition.

He also said he increased the center's budget four-fold, taking it from \$28,000 budget in 2001 to the \$110,000 available for 2006.

In addition, he said he feels he had a hand in substantially increasing the client base and recruiting volunteers and businesses to come aboard and support the center.

Although Sickmiller is officially retired, he has agreed to assist in the center's main fund raising event one last time to

See SICKMILLER, Page 52

Sumter moves to welcome food wholesaler Sysco

BILL KOCH
Staff Writer

THE VILLAGES — Food service wholesaler Sysco Corp. may build a \$60 million warehouse in Sumterville, providing perhaps hundreds of jobs to area workers.

The Sumter County Commission voted in August to set aside \$700,000 to help Bushnell lay water and sewer lines to the proposed warehouse site. The city could spend \$2.9 million to provide services to the site.

The Houston-based company had asked the Sumter County Economic Development Council for assurance that water and sewer service would be available.

Although the prospects of a Sysco facility have been discussed for weeks, Council Director Diana Lee said she was told late last week that the \$30 billion company needed something in writing before making a decision. The firm hasn't decided whether to build in Marion or Sumter.

"We see this as a great opportunity to grow," Lee told county commissioners at their Tuesday meeting.

The commission voted 3-2 to earmark \$700,000 to help with the city's water and sewer expansion, but not before about 45 minutes of heated discussions between commissioners, city officials and

council representatives over past lost opportunities and public money being used to benefit private development.

Lee stressed the need for a prompt decision by the board, while Commissioner Mike Francis suggested seeking alternative solutions, such as drilling wells at the site. Lee added that a delay in making a decision may nix the project.

"(Sysco has) indicated they would go back to Marion County" if Sumter wouldn't provide water and sewer, Lee said.

City officials said they have sunk about a dozen wells in the ground in that area in the last few years, as suggested by Francis, none of which produced safe drinking water. "We already got the water" in Bushnell, said Mayor Joe Strickland.

Francis initially balked at the idea of letting Sysco build a plant.

"We've shut the door on a number of expansions to preserve (the county's) rural nature," Francis said, later accusing county officials of failing to notify him promptly of the details of Sysco's request.

Commissioner Jim Roberts said the county needs more businesses, especially ones like Sysco, if it plans to continue lowering the property tax rate.

"We have to expand the tax base," he said. "We're talking about the possibility

of industries coming in. It's a gamble, but it's an investment."

The county and city money would not be spent if Sysco decides against constructing a warehouse in Sumter County.

Company officials have said they took an interest in the Sumterville site for its proximity to major highways, including Florida's Turnpike and Interstate 75.

"That's the only urban expansion area in the whole county," Strickland said.

The claim by Lee and Strickland that the company would generate well-paying jobs in a county losing young residents to more lucrative careers elsewhere provoked another sharp exchange.

Villager Francis differed with Strickland's jobs argument, saying The Villages already provides good pay. When challenged, Francis said the jobs were at The Villages Regional Hospital. Sysco said it would employ 275 people with average manager pay close to \$60,000 a year.

Commissioner Dick Hoffman, a Villager, said local government should not use public money to encourage private development.

"I have a real problem giving money to a private company," he said. "They have the money. They can pay for it themselves."

Roberts said the board made a similar mistake about 10 years ago when Wal-

Mart was considering a warehouse in Sumter County. Wal-Mart opted instead to build in Marion County.

"If we want to be in the game, we have to make a commitment," he said. "We have to be bold. The choice is to be in the ball game or not."

Francis insisted the county needed more time and criticized officials and commissioners of a lack of planning. "We don't have to be bold and stupid."

Reluctant to join the fray, county Administrator Sandy Howell at one point countered Francis' claim that county officials had failed to inform him of Sysco's intent.

"I did brief you on it," she said, adding that she also put information in his county office mailbox.

Strickland said the city is also taking a risk, but finds the investment worthwhile.

"What I'm trying to do is help our kids," he said. "The city of Bushnell is stepping out on a dangerous limb itself."

Francis said he found Strickland's comments offensive.

"I wish you wouldn't put me on the defensive. That's not very nice," he said.

Francis and Hoffman voted against spending the money.

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More trek to other counties for work

About 22 percent of Citrus workers commute across county lines for their jobs, compared with 17 percent in 1990, according to census data.

By COLLEEN JENKINS, Times Staff Writer

© St. Petersburg Times
published March 9, 2003

Some Citrus County residents think it's a long haul from Crystal River to Inverness.

That's peanuts compared with Paul Strom's commute. Each week, the Homosassa man steers his silver Buick Century toward Lake County to work part time at Carroll Fulmer Logistics Corp. For a 60 1/2-mile stretch of asphalt, it's just him and the country music piping from his radio.

Or so he thought. According to recently released census data, the number of people commuting from Citrus to Lake more than tripled -- from 125 to 400 -- between 1990 and 2000.

Couple that with three times as many residents -- from 220 to 675 -- driving to work in Sumter County, and it's obvious that eastbound morning traffic has thickened along Citrus roads during the past decade. In fact, on State Road 44 east of Gospel Island Road (County Road 470), there was a 9 percent increase in the average number of cars per day between 1990 and 2000.

The recent information isn't evidence of a daily mass exodus. But the numbers do show a slight decline in those who both live and work in Citrus. Almost 78

From today's Citrus Times

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percent of Citrus workers, or 29,460 people, still worked in their home county. In 1990, about 83 percent of Citrus workers age 16 and older were employed within the county's borders.

Meanwhile, the number of exported workers rose by more than 5,000, the census figures showed.

The numbers ring true for Brett Wattles, executive director of the Citrus County Economic Development Council. About 60 percent of the county's workforce is employed in retail or service jobs, he said. People wanting better paying jobs often go elsewhere.

"If a person has a higher level of education, they are likely to seek employment outside the county," Wattles said. "But obviously we would like for more of the employment opportunities to exist in Citrus County."

The information on how many Citrus residents leave the county to go to work comes from the Census Bureau's long form survey of about one in six households nationwide. On April 1, 2000, surveyors asked, "Where did you work last week?" The survey results are subject to some sampling error.

Neighboring Marion and Hernando counties continued to pull the most workers out of Citrus. Eight percent of Citrus workers, or about 3,000 people, drove to Marion. In 2000, 1,500 people traveled to Hernando for work, about twice as many as in 1990.

Hillsborough County drew 470 people, nearly doubling the number from 10 years before.

A decade ago, Citrus residents commuting to Sumter or Lake counties each made up less than 1 percent of the county's workforce. In 2000, they totaled 3 percent of Citrus' 37,900 workers.

Officials in those counties attributed the increase to their ardent economic development efforts. Lake County commissioners have partnered with the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission to bring in new businesses. They also bought a commerce park to lure companies with affordable land and efficient permitting, said Greg Miharic, the county's director of economic development and tourism.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for people who

want to locate their businesses in Lake County to do that," he said. "We're trying to stimulate job creation in Lake County as actively as possible."

Carroll Fulmer Logistics, a trucking company, was the first business to move into the Groveland business park. Strom, 68, drove a truck for the company for seven years before retiring and buying a home in western Citrus County.

But last October, he started working four days a week again in the company's shop. That meant driving an hour and five minutes to Lake County.

He's luckier than most long-distance commuters. His employer eases the grind by housing him rent-free in an apartment on company property three nights a week.

"Driving don't bother me a bit," said Strom, who put in between 150,000 and 170,000 miles a year as a truck driver. "I can't see selling my place here and moving over there. I like it over here on the west coast."

A preference for the quiet, coastline and rivers ranks among the reasons many who work in other counties opt to live in Citrus County. Yet, in some cases, the reason is that the counties they work in can't house them.

Sumter County is such a place, said its economic development director, Diana Lee. Citrus contractors, builders and corrections officers have flocked to job opportunities resulting from the expansions of Sumter's federal prison and the Villages, a large retirement community, she said.

The Coleman Federal Correctional Institute has more than 1,000 employees, including the approximately 300 hired in 2001 after its most recent expansion. Personnel staff couldn't provide the exact number of Citrus residents working there, but acknowledged their significant presence.

Other big pulls in Sumter include a state prison, which employs 74 Citrus residents, and the public school system, where 17 Citrus residents work.

However, Lee said the housing market hadn't kept pace with the explosion of commerce.

Sumter "didn't have enough affordable or available housing when they came to work here," she said. "So lots of people have bought homes in Lake, Marion or Citrus instead and commute to Sumter."

Citrus increasingly may be exporting its workers, but some commuters also are driving here. Progress Energy, the county's largest employer, is a likely draw.

Marion County sent 1,200 workers in 2000, the most of any nearby county. About 480 came to Citrus from Levy, 200 from Sumter and 100 from Lake. In addition, the number of Hernando residents commuting to Citrus increased from 750 to 940 between 1990 and 2000. Only 130 came from Pasco, down from 180 in 1990.

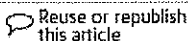
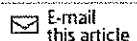
Larry Hopper, 62, is among the 330 Citrus workers who drive south on U.S. 19 toward Pasco County each day. The Inverness man spends more than two hours a day in his gray Dodge Intrepid to get to Hudson Middle School, where he teaches business education.

He usually manages to avoid both rush hours, leaving home at 5:40 a.m. and getting back on the road around 2:30 p.m. Even after five years of making the trip, he said it was worthwhile. Pasco school officials treat their educators fairly, particularly when doling out raises, he said.

He and his wife own a home in Inverness, and she teaches at Citrus High School. They have no intention of moving, ensuring for Hopper several more years of an inordinate amount of oil changes.

"If one of us had to commute, I would rather it be me," he said.

-- Colleen Jenkins can be reached at 860-7303 or cjenkins@sptimes.com.



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Rural Sumter County May Become Home for Turnpike's Headquarters

BY ROBERT JOHNSON STAFF REPORTER OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Interlaced by such major traffic arteries as Florida's Turnpike, Interstate 75 and three U.S. highways, bucolic Sumter County has long billed itself as "the Crossroads of Central Florida."

So last year, when the Turnpike District announced plans to move its headquarters and 170 workers out of Tallahassee and toward the middle part of the state, officials in Sumter started a campaign to woo them.

The turnpike's nerve center would be the county's fifth-biggest and a major economic-development prize. Moreover, it would be a rare chance for one of Florida's rural counties to prove to itself and its neighbors that being ...

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Plant offers electrical and economic boost

The booster plant's deal to sell electricity to an unnamed utility could generate millions in tax revenue for the county.

By JENNIFER GOLDBLATT, Times Staff Writer

© St. Petersburg Times, published March 22, 2002

The booster plant's deal to sell electricity to an unnamed utility could generate millions in tax revenue for the county.

SHADY HILLS -- You might not know that it's there, quietly buzzing between the county's incinerator and waste water treatment plant.

But on a scorching summer day or a chilly winter night, you would certainly know if it wasn't.

Mirant Corp. turned on its 474-megawatt natural gas-powered plant last week in Shady Hills, plugging in a source of excess electricity for Tampa Bay, and one of Pasco's biggest capital investments in recent history.

The \$160-million plant provides electricity to other power companies that need it during peak service times, such as hot days when residents turn on their air conditioners, and cold mornings, when people crank up the heat.

Mirant has a five-year contract to provide electricity wholesale to a utility, the name of which Mirant would not disclose citing a confidentiality agreement.

The plant could add millions in tax revenues to the county's coffers without straining county services. Pasco's property appraiser values the 30-acre site and office at \$617,245 and Mirant will pay \$12,552 in property taxes this year. The power generation facility, which will encompass most of the plant's taxable value, won't be on the tax rolls until next year.

"It's a huge ad valorem tax advantage to the county," said Mary Jane Stanley, executive director of Pasco's Economic Development Council. The plant employs a staff of nine, and the jobs pay an average of \$35,000, well above the county average, she said.

"It wouldn't be the same as if a 2,000-employee company came in, it's a different kind of development."

By comparison, Florida Power's Anclote power plant, which is more than 20 years old and much bigger than the Shady Hills plant, pays about \$3.7-million in county taxes each year.

Another benefit, Stanley said, is having a national company in Pasco County.

"Pasco could get national exposure that way, in their annual reports and publications," she said.

This is how the Shady Hills plant works: The plant has three natural gas-fired combustion turbines. Once a power company needs the extra energy, the plant's natural gas stores are burned to spin the turbine's blades, which in turn crank the generators and create electricity.

That electricity is then transmitted through Florida Power's transmission lines, to a utility, which then provides that power to its customers.

As for what local utility Mirant is doing business with, officials contacted this week from Tampa Electric Co., Florida Power and Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative all said that their companies have not contracted with Mirant for power from its new peaker plant.

Atlanta-based Mirant has 28 other plants throughout the United States, but this is its first in Florida.

Mirant is based in Atlanta but has operations worldwide, and approximately 10,000 employees. It bought the Shady Hills plant from El Paso Energy in October, while the plant was still under construction.

Peaker plants are not regulated by the Public Service Commission because they sell the energy wholesale to utilities. But the plants must adhere to state and federal environmental restrictions.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection, the emissions from Mirant's plant more than meet state and federal guidelines.

The plant emits nine parts per million of nitrous oxide -- far below the DEP's limit of 75 parts per million for these sorts of plants. The plant's fuel oil contains 0.05 percent sulfur, far below the DEP's limit of 0.8 percent.

Peaker plants are expected to keep sprouting up with the growth in population and demand for power. There are about 20 peaker plants planned or under construction in Florida over the next decade (three of them are in Polk County).

"This Mirant plant is a good example that there's clearly a need for more capacity and energy in the state," said Mike Green, vice president of Florida operations for Duke Energy. "Florida is still the fourth largest state and growing as fast even with the recessionary times, the load is still growing at 1,000 megawatts per year," Green added. "And I think everybody is looking at Tampa as one of the major growth areas."

Merchant providers such as Duke and Mirant can only build peaker plants in Florida. But Green is also chairman of the Partnership for Affordable Competitive Energy, a group of merchant power plant providers lobbying the state for permission to build regular power plants.

-- Jennifer Goldblatt covers business in Pasco County. She can be reached in west Pasco at 869-6229, or toll-free at 1-800-333-7505, ext. 6229. Her e-mail address is

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By Andy Reid and Dave Simanoff, Staff Writers
The Tampa Tribune
1/5/2002

TAMPA - From under the bent brim of his camouflage hat, John White stared at pastures pegged to become Pasco County's newest town. White said he'll miss watching from his porch swing as deer dart from the cypress trees on the Conner family property. "I love sitting here, looking out across there and seeing nothing but cows and trees," said White, 52, a Land O' Lakes native who five years ago moved to Ehren Cutoff, across from the Conner property. That view will change in 2003 when Terrabrook, the Dallas-based developer that purchased the Conner family's 8,000-acre ranch Friday afternoon, begins construction on one of the largest development projects in the Tampa Bay area. Part of the land will go to the local water authority for conservation, but the remainder will be transformed over 15 years into a community with 7,000 houses and 2 million square feet of stores, restaurants, offices and industrial space. The development, named Connerton, will be one of the largest developments in the Tampa Bay area. It represents Terrabrook's biggest investments in this market, welcome news at any time, and a strong endorsement for the local housing market during the recession. More importantly, Connerton represents a turning point in the growth of south-central Pasco, marking the area's conversion from an agricultural haven into one of Tampa's suburban satellites - akin to Brandon, or New Tampa. It's a turning point most communities have struggled through, for better or worse, as they strive to meet the needs of a growing population and the demands for housing. Terrabrook, which didn't disclose how much it paid for the Conner land, also built Westchase in northwest Hillsborough, one of the area's top-selling developments. Old Pasco, New Pasco There is no doubt south-central Pasco is growing. The area is bounded by Bruce B. Downs on the east, the Suncoast Parkway on the west, State Road 52 on the north and the Hillsborough County line on the south. It has been in the midst of a growth boom for more than a decade. Retirees from the North and urban dwellers from Tampa, St. Petersburg and other Florida cities swelled the area's 2000 population to more than 37,000, an increase of 78 percent since 1990, census data shows. Median household income is estimated at more than \$42,000 annually, making south-central Pasco more affluent than the region as a whole. Unemployment rates are low, and projections for job growth during the next 10 years are high. But many parts of south-central Pasco still cling to their sleepy, agricultural roots. For proof, you need to look no further than Gowers Corner, the blink-and-you've-missed-it town at U.S. 41 and S.R. 52, a few miles north of Land O' Lakes. The Gowers Corner filling station and general store, built in 1926, were torn down 17 years ago to make room for a strip shopping center called Chapman Corners. Gowers Corner seems like a blip on the map next to a development like Connerton. And the residents of Gowers Corner can plan on plenty more neighbors. At least five more developments, each large enough to be considered a Development of Regional Impact under Florida planning codes, are in the works. Developers are turning to south-central Pasco because



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Investor Spotlight

of economics. Compared with north Hillsborough, the development sites in south-central Pasco offer higher density and lower land costs, said Bruce Erhardt, a senior director at Cushman & Wakefield of Florida Inc., a commercial real estate services firm in Tampa. New roads and the widening of existing roads also have opened the door for development, Erhardt said. Preserving Part Of Connerton Despite objections from environmentalists, Pasco County in July 2000 approved Connerton's development order, giving the green light for 15,000 homes, and millions of square feet of retail and industrial areas to be phased in during 30 years. The Southwest Florida Water Management District failed to purchase the Conner family's property, which is wedged between wellfields and includes more than 3,000 acres of wetlands. The water management district, known as Swiftmud, has been working on a watered-down deal to purchase the northern half of the Conners' 8,000 acres between U.S. 41 and Ehren Cutoff. Swiftmud this month plans to present the Conners and Terrabrook with a draft contract that would call for the water district to purchase about 3,700 acres, said Fritz Musselmann, Swiftmud's land resources director. The preserved portion of the property would border S.R. 52 to the north, Ehren Cutoff to the east and stretch about a half-mile inland from U.S. 41 to the west, Musselmann said. Growing Pains Connerton represents one more challenge for the Pasco County school district, which has been struggling to keep up with the county's rapid growth. ``Just for myself, as a person, I think Connerton is a neat concept," said school board member Marge Whaley. ``But as a school board member I'm always concerned with growth we can't keep up with." Whaley said Connerton is expected to provide land to the district on which to build schools. She said one thing she likes about Connerton is the development has been envisioned as a place where children would walk to school. ``We like that because it cuts down on our buses," Whaley said. Another issue for Connerton and the growing south-central Pasco area: emergency services. ``We want to give the citizens the best law enforcement protection that they are willing to pay for," said Kevin Doll, spokesman for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. ``We have been anticipating this growth for some time, so it doesn't come as a surprise to us, [but] still we need to make sure there are enough financial resources to address the needs." Economic Development Pasco business leaders look forward to the corporate parks and industrial areas included in Connerton plans. Connerton could keep some of Pasco's 50,000 commuters from driving south each work day, said Mary Jane Stanley, executive director of the Pasco Economic Development Council. ``A lot of companies want to be close to Tampa but they don't want the hassles of all the traffic and congestion," Stanley said. ``[Connerton] is going to create a new business center." Back near the Conner family ranch, neighbor Virginia Thomas is preparing to put out a ``for sale" sign. Connerton is planned across from her family's property, where she has lived on and off for 40 years. She doesn't begrudge the Conners' development plans. Thomas said she is more concerned by the damage to her 2 1/2 acres she blames on a nearby wellfield that sends water to neighborhoods far from her front porch. ``When I came here, you could fish where ever you wanted to, hunt where ever you wanted to. You can't do that anymore, so they might as well develop," said Thomas, 73. ``I am a cracker and proud of it. [But] you have got to look ahead, not back." Reporters Ronnie Blair, Candace J. Samolinski and Doug

Stanley contributed to this report. Reporter Andy Reid can be reached at Reporters Ronnie Blair, Candace J. Samolinski and Doug Stanley contributed to this report. Reporter Andy Reid can be reached at areid@tampatrib.com or (813) 948-4201. Reporter Dave Simanoff can be reached at dsimanoff@tampatrib.com or (813) 259-7762.

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Market Technologies Receives Recognition from Pasco Economic Development Council


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Wesley Chapel, FL, September 25, 2000 -- Louis B. Mendelsohn, President and Chief Executive Officer, announced today that Market Technologies received a letter of congratulations from Mary Jane Stanley, Executive Director of the Pasco Economic Development Council, on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Council for Market Technologies ranking 25th in the Tampa Bay Technology Fast 50 competition. In her letter to Mr. Mendelsohn, Ms. Stanley indicated that "This is truly an accomplishment, and we are fortunate to have you call Pasco County home for your business".

Earlier this summer, on June 12, 2000, the Pasco Economic Development Council informed Mr. Mendelsohn that Market Technologies was nominated for one of the Pasco Economic Development Council's Industry of the Year Awards. According to John Walsh's letter to Mr. Mendelsohn on behalf of the Council, "Every year since 1987, the Pasco Economic Development Council has recognized outstanding companies for their contribution to our economy. This nomination sets Market Technologies apart as a leading member of Pasco County's corporate community."

Market Technologies is a world pioneer in technical analysis and market timing software. Founded in 1979 by Mr. Mendelsohn, with customers in more than thirty countries worldwide, Market Technologies has developed a proprietary market timing technology that utilizes neural networks and intermarket analysis to forecast twenty-one financial markets, including interest rates, stock indices, currencies, and the energy complex.

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Sumter County Industrial Development Authority

409 E Seminole Avenue / P.O. Box 337

Bushnell, FL 33513

352-793-3003 / FAX 352-893-2339

September 3, 2009

Commissioner Garry Breeden
Board of County Commissioners
Sumter County
910 N Main Street
Bushnell, FL 33513

RE: BOCC Letter dated 8/17/09- Funding

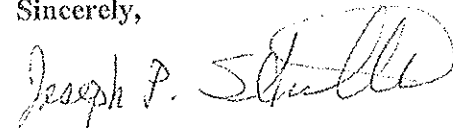
Chairman Breeden:

Please be advised that during the August 27, 2009 Industrial Development Authority's meeting the board approved forwarding funds currently in the IDA accounts that are not necessary for the purpose of acting as an industrial bond conduit to the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners.

The IDA Board approved developing an operational budget that will be submitted when the funding is transmitted to the BOCC. The Board approved retaining 10% of the IDA funds and forwarding 90% to the BOCC.

Since the majority of the IDA funds are invested in CD's, the Board approved forwarding the funds to the BOCC as the CD's mature, therefore, not incurring penalties or loss of interest.

Sincerely,


Joseph P. Strickland
Chairman

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Pub Wks: 1

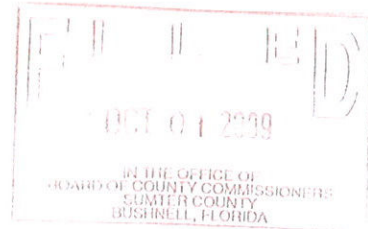
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Sumter County Industrial Development Authority

408 E Seminole Avenue/P.O. Box 337
Bushnell, FL 33513

September 30, 2009



Garry Breeden, Chairman
Board of Sumter County Commissioners
910 North Main Street
Bushnell, Florida 33513

Dear Chairman Breeden:

This letter is in response to the Board of Sumter County Commissioner's request that all Sumter County Industrial Development Authority funds not necessary for the purpose of acting as an industrial bond conduit be transmitted to the county for the purpose of funding the marketing and management of the economic development efforts in Sumter County.

The IDA Board approved retaining 10% of the IDA funds for operational purposes. The majority of IDA funds are currently in Certificates of Deposit. As the CDs mature the balance of funds will be forwarded to the county.

Listing of IDA Certificate of Deposits:

Center State Bank CD	\$229,119.78	Matures 9-01-10
Center State Bank CD	49,167.67	" " 2-08-10
Colonial Bank CD	17,933.88	" " 11-26-09
Balance	\$296,221.33	As of 9/30/09

Regards,

Joseph Strickland
Chairman

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